



News From

Maggie Brooks

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release
Monday, March 22, 2004

BROOKS ANNOUNCES BOLD ENERGY INITIATIVE

NAMES ENERGY POLICY ADVISORY TEAM

County Executive Maggie Brooks, fulfilling another pledge she made to the community last year, today announced a bold new County initiative designed to reduce Monroe County energy related expenses while fostering greater reliance on homegrown renewable energy. The announcement also establishes an Energy Policy Advisory Team that will develop an overall program to optimize energy management and cost efficiencies.

"I am determined to pursue innovative ways to reduce energy consumption and related expenditures," said Brooks. "The strategies we adopt will help foster the development of energy-efficient technologies throughout the county and ensure that all new and existing county facilities are designed, maintained and upgraded, as required, to be energy efficient."

"Both government and business have very specific needs for reliability and quality of power," said Brooks. "With the growing public demand for greater reliance on renewable energy using local resources, the time is now for the development and implementation of a comprehensive energy policy."

One goal of the policy is to reduce the per capita use of non-renewable sources of energy through the efficient and appropriate use of all energy. It also plans to promote the conservation of existing depleted energy resources and the development of local, renewable resources to ensure that an adequate supply will be available to County businesses at a reasonable cost.

- MORE -

“In the past, utility companies made all of the decisions about our energy system,” Brooks said. “They analyzed projected needs, decided on the best fuel source and built and owned the power plants and transmission lines. The rest of us – government, businesses and residents - just flicked the switch. Today, however, there is increasing public interest in participating in the energy process. We plan to do just that.” said Brooks.

A key goal of the policy is to establish the infrastructure necessary to ensure a strong, stable energy environment that will nurture economic growth throughout the County. The energy advisory team will work integrally with the recently established Economic Development Team to develop programs that attract businesses to the area and provide an upturn in the local economy.

“I believe Monroe County can become the hub for emerging energy technologies and this will certainly spur job growth,” said Brooks. “The strength of our local resources in education, agriculture, industry and technology are second to none and I am sure we can make this happen by pulling together with the right plan.”

“I am asking my Energy Advisory Team to pursue goals that serve the interests of energy and environmental conservation while developing an infrastructure that will economically benefit the County and our community,” said Brooks. “Creating a centralized energy control center to manage the distribution and consumption of energy at county facilities will be one of their key challenges.”

Some early projects that may come from this new initiative include tapping energy solutions linked to gas recovery operations at the Mill Seat Landfill, exploring the new opportunities available from hydrogen fuel cell technology, expanding the on-site co-generation of combined heat and power to realize cost savings.

Shutting down the incinerators at the VanLare Treatment Plant later this year will result in huge gas savings to the district while generating significant increases in methane production at the Mill Seat Landfill.

The County has already invested over \$20 million in co-generation operations at The Greater Rochester International Airport, the Monroe Community Hospital, and Monroe Community College. Additionally, working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Daimler Chrysler, fourteen alternative fuel Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) have been added to the County’s motor fleet.

- MORE -



Maggie Brooks
County Executive

ASKED to serve on the Advisory Board were John Graham, Director of Monroe County Environmental Services; Dan Lynch, Siemens Technology; Jeff Richardson, Waste Management, Terry Slaybaugh, Director of Greater Rochester International Airport; Mark Ballerstein, County Director of Engineering and Facilities; and Rick Benway, County Associate Energy Engineer.

Additional members from the energy and business community will be added to the team in the coming weeks.

#

*For more Information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.monroecounty.gov*

MONROE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

GOALS

- **Reduce the per capita use of non-renewable sources of energy through the efficient and appropriate use of all energy.**
- **Promote the conservation of existing depleted energy resources and the development of local, renewable resources to ensure that the adequate supply will be available to County businesses at a reasonable cost.**
- **Establish the infrastructure necessary to ensure a strong, stable energy environment that will nurture economic growth throughout the County.**

TACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES

1. Development an overall Energy Management Program designed to optimize energy use.
2. Reduce Energy Consumption and Energy Related Expenditures.
3. Foster the Development of Energy-Efficient Technologies through the County.
4. Ensure that all new and existing County facilities are designed, maintained and upgraded, as required, to be energy efficient.
5. Negotiate favorable rates for electric power and natural gas for County facilities, where applicable.
6. Develop cost-effective alternative energy sources or fuel forms.
7. Promote the utilization of recycled products, when practical, and promote Waste Reduction.
8. Ensure reliable supplies of essential energy forms to meet operating requirements.
9. Explore partnership arrangements with other local jurisdictions and/or private businesses to explore alternative energy solutions.

10. Promote the advancement of emerging energy technologies such as the use of hydrogen fuel cells in County Fleet and Park maintenance equipment.
11. Promote the advancement of renewable energy projects including biomass, wind, solar and landfill gas recovery to ensure that the County works toward meeting Governor Pataki's Executive order #111. *(Will require 25% reduced energy consumption over time)*
12. Promote the advancement of on-site generation and combined heat and power projects.
13. Reduce environmental pollutants
14. Encourage cooperation among area Towns and Village to create their own clean energy initiatives.
15. Solicit and secure available Local, State and Federal Funding for the advancement of these smart energy projects.
16. Utilize the energy initiative as a tool for economic development. Create jobs by partnering with Economic Development Agencies in attracting and retaining new businesses by providing low cost energy sources and a strong energy infrastructure.
17. Keep energy dollars here at home.